

Message Text

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15

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 /027 W
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R 080550Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY ISTANBUL
SECSTATE WASHDC 2877

UNCLAS KABUL 3594

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL, AF
SUBJ: VOLSPKR JACK BEHRMAN

REF: A. KABUL 3531 ET SEQ; B. ISTANBUL 1713

1. DR. JACK BEHRMAN'S NO-SHOW FOR KABUL ECONOMIC SEMINAR HAS CAUSED POST GREAT EMBARRASSMENT WITH KEY TARGET AUDIENCE OF 25-30 HIGH-LEVEL GOA PARTICIPANTS INVITED BY POST ECONOMIC COUNSELOR, INCLUDING MINISTER OF COMMERCE PERSONNALLY INVITED BY AMBASSADOR. SIXTY-EIGHT ALSO INVITED TO POST-SEMINAR WORKING RECEPTION AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. ALL HAD TO BE CANCELLED. USIS PRODUCED 80-PAGE BILINGUAL BOOKLET CONTAINING BEST OF RECENT AGENCY ECONOMIC ARTICLES AND ORDERED COPIES BEHRMAN'S BOOK FOR DISTRIBUTION TO SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS. IN ADDITION TO EMBARRASSMENT, CANCELLATION POST'S MAJOR SEMINAR OF YEAR IS A MAJOR SETBACK IN PROGRAMMING IN A DIFFICULT, BUT VITAL AREA HERE. HUNDREDS OF MANHOURS AND SCARCE RESOURCES WERE WASTED, INCLUDING EXCHANGE OF 23 CABLES ON BEHRMAN.

2. ON APRIL 30 VIA KABUL 2757, IN RESPONSE USIA 9814, POST ACCEPTED BEHRMAN FOR JUNE 11-12 OR 16-17. USIA 10723 CONFIRMED JUNE 15. WITH THIS COMMITMENT, POST WENT INTO HIGH GEAR, ARRANGED FOR SEMINAR SITE, BEGAN PRINTING BOOKLET, ORDERED BEHRMAN BOOK, AND MADE UP
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LIST FOR SEMINAR AND AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION. ALTHOUGH

BEHRMAN DID NOT ANSWER KABUL 3360, POST CONTINUED ON TRACK.

3. BUCHAREST 2321 OF MAY 31- DESPITE MONTH OLD COMMITMENT BY BEHRMAN- NOTIFIED POST THAT "BEHRMAN WOULD LIKE TO CANCEL KABUL PROGRAM" (BUT NOT HIS PROGRAM IN TEHRAN). IT ALSO REQUEST POST PROVIDE " RATIONALE FOR CONVINCING BEHRMAN HE SHOULD TRAVEL TO KABUL FOR ONEDAY PROGRAM AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED." KABUL 3406 PROVIDED RATIONALE-IF ANY WERE NEEDED- AND SUGGESTED ARRIVAL JUNE 14, AFTER TEHRAN, AS AN ALTERNATIVE.

4. BUCHAREST 2399 (JUNE 2) INFORMED POST THAT BEHRMAN WOULD ARRIVE IN TIME FOR PROGRAMMING JUNE 8, VICE JUNE 15. BECAUSE OF FLIGHT SCHEDULES, JUNE 8 PROGRAMMING REQUIRED TEHRAN ARRIVAL NO LATER THAN JUNE 7 RPT JUNE 7 TO CONNECT KABUL FLIGHT. DESPITE INCONVENIENCE TO POST IN MOVING SEMINAR UP BY ONE WEEK, POST AGREED TO JUNE 8 SEMINAR TO AVOID CANCELLATION ALL PREPARATIONS ALREADY MADE. BUCHAREST 2416 (JUNE 3) GAVE ARRIVAL ON JUNE 8. KABUL 3531 (IMMEDIATE) TO BUCHAREST, BELGRADE, ISTANBUL AND TEHRAN POINTED OUT ERROR IN FLIGHT DATA AND REQUESTED CONFIRMATION JUNE 7 ARRIVAL. ISTANBUL 1713 INFORMED POST BEHRMAN A NO-SHOW. WE BELIEVE THAT HAD BEHRMAN SERIOUSLY INTENDED TO COME TO KABUL, HE COULD HAVE MADE THE CONNECTING FLIGHTS TO GET HIM ON FH708 AND INTO KABUL JUNE 7. FOR EXAMPLE, PA 002 FROM ISTANBUL TO BEIRUT CONNECTED WITH JAL FLIGHT TO TEHRAN, WHICH, IN TURN, ALLOWED CONNECTION WITH FG708 FOR TEHRAN TO KABUL ON JUNE 7.

5. THIS CAVALIER TREATMENT OF THIS POST SHOULD BE MADE A MATTER OF RECORD WHERE IT CAN BE RECALLED AS NECESSARY TO AVOID FUTURE SUCH INSTANCES. FOR ALL OF US HERE, IT REPRESENTS THE NADIR OF INSENSITIVITY TO THE LEGITIMATE EXPECTATIONS OF A POST SERIOUSLY ATTEMPTING TO PROGRAM IN SUPPORT OF USG OBJECTIVES.

6. UNLESS PROGRAM REVIEW REVEALS EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND KEN OF POST, RECOMMEND THAT BEHRMAN NOT RPT NOT BE UNCLASSIFIED

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PROGRAMMED AGAIN AS VOLSPKR.
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